

C. REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-42 were pending in the Application prior to this amendment. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, and 41 have been amended, and claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 16, 18, 22, 23, 30, 32, 36, and 37 have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-15, 17, 19-21, 24-29, 31, 33-35, and 38-42 are currently present in the Application, and claims 1, 7, 15, 21, 29, and 35 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 6, 9-10, 12, 18, 20, 23-24, 26, 32, 34, 37-38, and 40 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite prosecution of the present Application, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations previously found in dependent claims 2 and 4, and have cancelled dependent claims 2 and 4. Similarly, Applicants have amended independent claim 7 to include the limitations previously found in dependent claims 8 and 9, and have cancelled dependent claims 8 and 9. Similarly, Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to include the limitations previously found in dependent claims 16 and 18, and have cancelled dependent claims 16 and 18. Likewise, Applicants have amended independent claim 21 to include the limitations previously found in dependent claims 22 and 23, Applicants have amended independent claim 29 to include the limitations previously found in dependent claims 30 and 32, and Applicants

have amended independent claim 35 to include the limitations previously found in dependent claims 36 and 37. Applicants have cancelled dependent claims 22, 23, 30, 32, 36, and 37.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 7, 15, 21, 29, and 35, and the claims which depend from them, are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-15, 17, 19-21, 24-29, 31, 33-35, and 38-42 be allowed.

Claim Rejections - Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-15, 17, 19-21, 24-29, 31, 33-35, and 38-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of various cited references. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Based on the amendments discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are now moot, and respectfully request that the remaining claims in the Application be allowed.

Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Leslie A. Van Leeuwen Reg. No. 42,196/
Leslie A. Van Leeuwen, Reg. No. 42,196
Van Leeuwen & Van Leeuwen
Attorneys for Applicant
Telephone: (512) 301-6738
Facsimile: (512) 301-6742